

THE CITIZEN

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U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart

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Stuttgart, Oberammergau and Garmisch, Germany

Are you sure you're safe?
Most threats aren't this obvious

Special Section: Anti-Terrorism

Safety & security tips for the whole family

Pages 8 - 10

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INSIDE THIS EDITION

Page 4

Stuttgart BOSS hosts evening of fashion

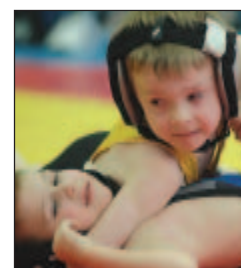
The Stuttgart chapter of Better Opportunities for Single Servicemembers draws a crowd to its inaugural "Fashion For a Cause" event in the Patch Community Club.



Page 13

Young wrestlers converge on Patch

One hundred thirty-eight young grapplers take to the mats as Stuttgart hosts a Youth Sports wrestling tournament in the Patch Fitness Center gymnasium.



Personal protection demands constant vigilance

Community members form front line of defense against terror

By Col. Thomas Griffith
Commentary

Longbows, airplanes and truck bombs. Do these things have anything in common? While at first glance they seem totally unrelated, each of them signaled a change in warfare.

In the 13th century an archer with a longbow could fire 10 arrows a minute, each one capable of slicing through chain mail armor, and brought about an end to the knight on horseback.

Seven centuries later, the archers were long gone when aircraft arrived over the battlefield and propelled warfare into the vertical dimension, creating a revolution in warfare that continues to reverberate today.

Those who did not adapt to these changes suffered the consequences.

Today, terrorists have changed the face of warfare. As former Central Intelligence Agency Director George Tenet testified, "The threat from terrorism is real, immediate, and evolving."

This does not mean that truck bombs will replace air power. But it does mean that we must adapt to new circumstances.

Worldwide communications via the Internet, cellular phones and other devices, along with modern global travel, give disparate groups the ability to connect and form loose alliances, making it more difficult than ever for law enforcement agencies to detect and stop them.

At the same time, weapons and technology previously reserved for nations can now be used by individuals, magnifying their capacity for death and destruction.

In the past, our force protection efforts against terrorism were intermittent at best. Typically, a great deal of attention would be lavished on the topic shortly after an attack, but interest quickly fell off.

Now and in the future, we have to avoid this haphazard

*You are the number one weapon against this threat.
You must remain alert and aware.
You must make force protection your business.
You must be the first line of defense.
After all, your life depends on it.*

approach and maintain a continuous focus on force protection. Terrorism is a worldwide threat and terrorists are searching for the easiest target they can find, wherever it is.

When people say, "it can't happen here," we have to respond, "Yes, it can ... but it will not happen to us."

At the same time, force protection cannot become our overriding goal; otherwise we would do nothing else. A total preoccupation with force protection breeds paralysis and is worse than not paying attention to the new threats.

Instead, force protection has to become an inherent part of our mission and our lives.

Force protection is not just done by security forces. It's an essential part of mission accomplishment, and everyone must treat it that way.

There are ways to beat this threat and accomplish the mission.

Part of our adaptation to the new battlefield will be designing new facilities with force protection in mind and investing in technology to produce equipment that can be used to increase security.

But, both now and in the future, the best weapon against a terrorist attack is you. The methods used by terrorists create weaknesses that we can exploit for our own protection.

In most cases, a terrorist does not act without highly

accurate information, which means intensive, repeated surveillance conducted over a period of time. This gives you the opportunity to thwart their plans, but you have to be observant enough to recognize what is being done and report it.

Likewise, you have to notice the suspicious package, the individual without the right identification, or the vehicle that seems out of place and then you have to know how to react.

Why you?

Because seconds count in these situations, and we can't depend on someone else to do it.

Yes, there will be false alarms, but that's to be expected, part of how we must change and adapt. Better to have a hundred false alarms than to deal with the aftermath of one tragic terrorist incident.

The best weapon we have to defeat the "real, immediate, and evolving" threat of terrorism is vigilance and awareness on your and everyone's part.

You are the number one weapon against this threat. You must remain alert and aware. You must make force protection your business. You must be the first line of defense.

After all, your life depends on it.

This commentary originally appeared online at www.usaf.af.mil.

THE CITIZEN

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www.stuttgart.army.mil

Boeblingen student reflects on meaning of citizenship, activism

By Jacqueline M. Brown
Boeblingen Elementary/Middle School

The greatest privilege one may have is to be a citizen of the United States of America, the greatest country in the world. As citizens, we are guaranteed, as stated in the Declaration of Independence by our founding fathers, unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The U.S. Constitution protects our rights. The Bill of Rights explains the rights of every U.S. citizen.



Brown

There's more to being a citizen than one might think. Yes, citizens have many guaranteed rights and freedoms, but a citizen has many duties as well. Every citizen is expected to obey local, state and federal laws. All citizens are expected to respect the rights of others. To be responsible members of their communities, citizens can volunteer their services to help obtain needed improvements. Citizens can offer their knowledge and talents to different organizations. They can take an ac-

tive part in helping to improve their community and the government.

An important right and responsibility of a citizen is to vote. Voting is the basis of our representative democracy. By voting, citizens have a voice in their government. They decide who will represent them. Every person's vote counts the same as another person's vote. Citizens of the U.S. have the opportunity to participate in their government. This process of self-government ensures that power will remain where it belongs: With the citizens of the United States of America.

There also comes a time when citizens have to show their allegiance by defending our country from those who threaten our freedom. Citizens must uphold this responsibility because freedom is not free.

Citizenship in the United States means life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness and duty to one's country. I am proud to be a citizen of America; the greatest country in the world.

Brown is a sixth-grader at BEMS. Her essay on the topic, "Citizenship in America," won the 2006 Patriot's Pen contest.

Every year, the Veteran's of Foreign Wars Post 10810 hosts the youth essay writing competition for Stuttgart-area schools. Contestants write a 300-400 word essay based on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme is "Why I am an American Patriot." Deadline for submission is Nov. 1

For more information visit the VFW National Headquarters Web site at www.vfw.org or email Bob Gambert at bobinuhlbach70329@yahoo.com.



A patron peruses a selection of Russian goods shortly after the Stuttgart Community Spouses Club's 2007 Spring Bazaar opened for business March 16. The three-day retail extravaganza brought 104 vendors and thousands of shoppers together in five locations on Patch Barracks.

SCSC Spring Bazaar 2007

Club's biggest bazaar brings bargain bonanza to Patch Barracks

Story & photos by
Hugh C. McBride

They came, they saw, and they shopped. A lot.

The 2007 version of the Stuttgart Community Spouses Club's Spring Bazaar brought a record 104 vendors together with thousands of community members for three days of retail madness on Patch.

In addition to increasing local ownership of cheese wheels and cuckoo clocks, the event also serves the community by raising funds for area agencies and organizations.

Proceeds raised during the March 16 to 18 sale will be returned to the community via grants that are disseminated during the year by the SCSC's Welfare Committee, said Ann Welton, bazaar chairperson.

"It's so wonderful to belong to a club where members enjoy volunteering their time and energy to benefit the entire community," Welton said.

Speaking at the event's opening ceremony, U.S. European Command Deputy Commander Gen. William E. Ward praised the unified effort of the many volunteers who form the foundation of the bazaar.

"This event doesn't work without the work of a lot of folks over a long period of time," Ward said. "And none of this could happen without the great support of U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart and Commander Col. Ken Juergens."

In addition to hosting more vendors than ever before, this year's



U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Commander Col. Kenneth G. Juergens, Stuttgart Community Spouses Club President Ann Welton and U.S. European Command Deputy Commander Gen. William E. Ward cut the ceremonial cake during the opening ceremony for the 2007 SCSC Spring Bazaar on Patch Barracks.

bazaar was also geographically larger as well. With the relocation of AAFES facilities from Patch to Panzer, the SCSC also hosted sales inside the former site of the Patch PX.

"It's been an absolute pleasure to work with the bazaar committee to make things happen that benefit the community in so many ways," Juergens said.

For more about the SCSC, or for a grant application, visit www.stuttgart.army.mil, select "Community Services," and then "SCSC."

News & Notes

Free tax help on Kelley Barracks

The Stuttgart Tax Center is now open for business. The center offers free tax preparation and filing assistance to U.S. identification cardholders.

The center is open Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Walk-in service is available, but individuals with complex returns or issues are advised to make an appointment.

For more information call 421-4588/civ. 0711-729-4588 or e-mail michael.ryan.watts@eur.army.mil.

Holy Days worship schedule

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart has announced a schedule of special Catholic, Jewish, Lutheran and Protestant services during the Spring Holy Days (Easter and Passover). The complete worship schedule may be accessed online at www.stuttgart.army.mil.

For more about worship on Stuttgart-area installations call 430-5000/civ. 0711-680-5000.

Girl Scouts seeking chairperson

The Stuttgart Girl Scouts are looking for a leader to fill the role of overseas committee chair.

If you are interested in helping shape the future, e-mail pheasfitz@hotmail.com for additional requirements and application information. Deadline is March 30.

Substance Abuse Training

The Stuttgart Army Substance Abuse Program office has finalized the schedule for annual ASAP training.

ASAP training is mandatory for Department of the Army civilians; however, all military personnel, local nationals and contractors are invited and highly encouraged to attend the training.

For more information call 431-2530/civ. 07031-15-2530 or e-mail scott.maylender@eur.army.mil. To access the full FY07 ASAP training schedule visit www.stuttgart.army.mil.

German-American Women's Club distributes 'Pfennig' funds

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart
Public Affairs Office

It's been called the largest flea market in Stuttgart, and rightfully so. The Pfennig Bazaar, hosted by the Stuttgart German-American Women's Club, is held every October in the *Haus der Wirtschaft* in downtown Stuttgart.

The three-day shopping event, during which items donated to the club throughout the year are sold, offers buyers a vast array of goods ranging from linens to stuffed animals and shoes.

Shoppers save money purchasing goods at bargain prices and, at the same time, do something perhaps more important – help to raise money for local German and American social programs.

The 2006 bazaar garnered 65,000 euro (about \$84,500), which was distributed to more than 25 German and American organizations during a March 13 ceremony in the *Stuttgarter Rathaus*.

Beneficiaries included U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Child and Youth Services, Boy and Girl Scouts groups and several German organizations that help children with cancer, youth social programs and renovation projects.

An eagerly anticipated event within the Stuttgart community, the bazaar demonstrates the strong German and American friendship and spirit of partnership that continues to grow over the years.

"It is our proud heritage to come together in friendship and distribute the proceeds from our Pfennig Bazaar," said Joy Lyden, president and

The 2006 Pfennig Bazaar garnered 65,000 euro (about \$84,500), which was distributed to more than 25 German and American organizations.

American representative for the GAWC.

Gen. William E. Ward, deputy commander of EUCOM, emphasized this tradition of friendship between two nations in his welcome remarks.

"What a great example this is over the past 60 years of German-American relationships," he said. "It is indeed more pleasant to give than to receive, and you're giving in such great ways to so many others."

Ward contributed the success of the bazaar to the teamwork by the German and American women and the many volunteer helpers.

"Let me personally thank you for how you devoted your time and talents and services to causing this event to be such a success," he said.

The GAWC was founded in 1947. Along with helping the needy and supporting welfare projects, the club's goal is to promote friendship and understanding among people of different nationalities.

Since its first Pfennig Bazaar in 1969, the GAWC has raised more than two million euro for charitable organizations.

For details about the Stuttgart German American Women's Club visit www.gawcstuttgart.de.

BOSS stages salute to fashion

‘Evening of beauty, fashion & entertainment’ also serves to educate community about programs for single service members

By Hugh C. McBride

Think “military fashion” is nothing more than an olive-drab oxymoron? Think again.

Members of Stuttgart’s Better Opportunities for Single Servicemembers attempted to shatter the stereotype of what a military member looks like during what the club billed as “an evening of fashion, beauty and entertainment” March 24 in the Patch Community Club.

In addition to shining a fashion-infused spotlight on area troops and civilians, the organization’s inaugural “Fashion for a Cause” event was also designed to inform the community about the many benefits BOSS brings to a community, said chapter president Sgt. 1st Class Juana Anderson of the 52nd Signal Battalion.

“The BOSS program isn’t just about ‘party hearty and have a good time,’” Anderson said. “We also work to improve quality-of-life issues within the military community.”

Established in 1989, BOSS is based upon three principles, Anderson said: leisure, community service and well-being.

In addition to providing recreational outlets for single service members, single civilian employees and troops who are geographically separated from their spouses, the program also gives members a structure through which to complete community service projects as well as a means of making their quality-of-life concerns heard, Anderson said.

In the previous 12 months, BOSS undertakings in Stuttgart have included supporting the U.S. Army Soldier Show, staffing a dunking booth at the community’s Independence Day celebration, and delivering donated supplies to wounded troops in Landstuhl Army Medical Center.

And though glamour was at the forefront of the March 24 show, it was a service mindset that made the event a reality.

“This was a great team effort from our BOSS members and community volunteers,” said Martha Povich of the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

In addition to those who strutted their stuff on the catwalk, BOSS members and other volunteers decorated the club, cooked and served food, ran the lights, provided music, and even drove to Mannheim to pick up the clothes for the show, Povich said.

“We have such a great community here in Stuttgart,” Povich said. “Everyone who was involved in this program has a ‘day job,’ but they put a tremendous effort into the event, and the result was a great evening.”

Anderson, who served as the event’s mistress of ceremonies, lauded U.S. Army Garrison Commander Col. Kenneth G. Juergens and Sgt. Maj. Mark Q. Barbary for their support of the event. “We could not have accomplished all of this without their leadership and direction,” she said.

The show itself started with a candle-lit tribute to U.S. service members, followed by a series of segments that featured denim outfits, African fashions, hip-hop apparel, business casual and formal dress.

“This was a unique event,” said audience member Gary Badertscher. “They did a great job. I’m glad we came.”

For more about BOSS in Stuttgart e-mail juana.anderson@eur.army.mil.



Tweedy Knef (MWR Marketing)

[Above] Sgt. Eric Latson of the 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), models a business casual ensemble March 24 on Patch Barracks.



Hugh C. McBride

[Right] SK3 Candice Martindale prepares to take the stage during the African fashion portion of the BOSS show.



Tweedy Knef (MWR Marketing)

[Above] Highlighting the international aspect of the show, the spotlight captures Needa Rahman between the German and U.S. flags.

[Near Right] IT2 Cynthia Carr salutes the colors at the opening of the BOSS fashion show.

[Far Right] Raqi Barnett, who served as coordinator for the fashion show, strikes a pose.



Hugh C. McBride



Hugh C. McBride

Scouts on the Move

Derby, Regatta foster speed, creativity and effort

Story by Brandon Beach

Three ... two ... one ... GO! The green flag went up, and the Pinewood Derby revved its engines March 17 in the Patch Elementary School gymnasium.

More than 40 Cub Scouts from Pack 324 competed for the "Fastest in the Pack" title, carving blocks of wood into mini roadsters. The derby, a staple on any pack's calendar, has been around for more than 50 years.

"This is the event all the Cubs look forward to," said Mary Blankenship, the pack's scout master. "It generates a lot of excitement."

Scouts start their derby project with a kit: Four wheels, four axles and a chunk of pine. They draft a design and take the sketch to the Kelley Barracks Woodshop, where, with their parent's help, they saw, chisel, sand and paint their derby entry. The project, according to Blankenship, is intended to be a parent-scout undertaking.

Speed comes with weight, the final step. Some scouts said they notched holes in the wood and inserted lead pieces into the belly of the car. Others glued two-Euro coins to the exterior. As a rule, the car could not exceed five ounces.

The pack divides by rank: Tigers, Wolf, Bears and Webelos. In preliminary heats, races were run between Cubs of equal rank. Winners were awarded ribbons and invited to make a go at the overall title that afternoon.

At the speedway, the action was deafening. The starter pulled a lever, and two flamed-out cars barreled down the sloped wooden track.

Lining the raceway were the Bears from Pack 324 who gave an approving, "Yeah," as the cars crossed the finish line and crashed into a wall of foam boards.

"Lane 2 is the winner," said the judge, seated at the other end of the track. The track marshal recorded the result, and seconds later, the starter placed two more cars in the race pit.

"It's the tank against the dragon," said a fist-pumping Blake Dipert, a third-grader at PES. He grabbed his buddy, Nicholas McFadden, the tank's creator, and just to make sure he got it, said again, "It's the tank against the dragon."

McFadden had no idea the tank would

Scouts start their derby project with a kit: Four wheels, four axles and a chunk of pine.

flatten so much of the competition in the early heats. He said he had spent most of the previous week carving out his M1 Abrams replica, not so much to win, but "because it would look cool."

In the end, neither the tank nor the dragon reached the checkered finals. That award went to eight-year old Mason Sigmon and his red-flamed roadster.

Raingutter Regata

Racing was not limited to the track that Saturday. Adding even more decibel to the sound level in the gym, the pack hosted its annual Raingutter Regata alongside the derby.

On the opposite side of the room, scouts raced in side-by-side heats, propelling their sail boats down a 10-foot gutter using just a plastic straw and all the wind they could force from their lungs. Scouts puffed their cheeks and tried to point their handmade boats in a straight line. The first scout to the end won.

Unlike the derby, there was not a final race to determine an overall winner. The top three sailors from each rank took home ribbons.

Webelo Ben Ferguson, a fifth-grader at PES, won the "Most Historic Design" award, for his replica of an 18th-century Viking ship. Ferguson said he found inspiration for his design in books and the Internet. Though his sleek craft wasn't the fastest, Ferguson said the most important thing was "that you even tried and competed."

For more information about the Patch Barracks-based Cub Scout Pack 324 contact Mary Blankenship at 430-5336/civ. 0711-680-5360.

For more information about Scouting in the Stuttgart area visit the Barbarossa District official Web site at visit www.tac-bsa.org/barbarossa.

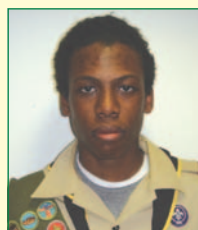


More than 40 Cub Scouts huffed and puffed their hand-made sail boats down the "rain" gutter using a plastic straw and some serious lung power March 17 in the PES gym.

Scout's 'Eagle' effort enhances appearance at Patch front gate

Story by Brandon Beach

Patch Barracks got a make-over thanks to Elias Green. The Boy Scout from Troop 154 led a team of volunteer "weed whackers" March 10 to clean up the large-wooded area adjacent to the main gate.



Green

Most of the day was spent clearing out the heavy overgrowth that had built up over the years. The purpose of the project was two-fold. Green said he wanted to create "a spot where people can sit down and relax and have a positive outlook on our base." He will also earn his Eagle Scout stripes for his efforts.

"Once they become Eagles, they become leaders, and they have the re-



Denis Brown of the 66th Military Intelligence Group was one of many volunteers who lent a hand March 10.

sponsibility to teach the younger kids to be scouts," said Col. Gregory Barber, Green's scout master.

The site will be open to the public and will include benches and picnic tables.

Green has been with his troop for the last four years. To qualify for the Eagle rank, he completed 21 merit badges.



From dragons to tanks, the Cubs Scouts from Pack 324 designed some elaborate derby cars for their March 17 speedway races, held in the Patch Elementary School gym.

USAG Stuttgart Housing Office honored for excellence in Armywide competition

By Hugh C. McBride

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Housing Office took home two prestigious awards during a recent competition among housing offices throughout the Army.

Mary Scott, Stuttgart's chief of military housing, was selected as the Army's Senior Housing Manager of the Year, and the entire USAG Stuttgart housing team was honored as the service's Outstanding Housing Team of the Year.

"I'm extremely proud of Mary Scott and our housing team," said USAG Stuttgart Commander Col. Kenneth G. Juergens. "They have set the standard for customer service in our community, and their efforts have resulted in direct improvements to the quality of life of our community members. I'm thrilled that their superior service has been recognized on the Department of the Army level."

"This team works together better than any team I've ever seen," Scott said. "They consistently come up with creative and innovative ways to do things – and [the Installation Management Command] is picking up on their ideas and spreading them throughout the Army."

The nomination packets submitted for Scott and the housing team placed a premium on effective communication and "above and beyond the call of duty" service. Highlights included the following:

- To address an increased need for off-post housing (resulting from major renovation projects on area installations), the housing team initiated a campaign to solicit additional off-post listings and improve communication with host-nation landlords.

- The housing team created a "Beautification Voucher Program" that allows on-post residents to enhance their homes with flowers and plants from local florists and nurseries.

- Weekly staff meetings for each housing team and a monthly meeting for the entire housing operation enhance internal communication and improve teamwork and camaraderie.

"Ms. Scott's ability to empower her team members gives them a sense of pride and belonging," said Emma Watson, chief of the housing office's customer service branch. "She inspires us to look for ways to better serve our customers."

"We're not perfect," Scott said. "But our team cares deeply, and we're aiming for perfection."

For more about the housing office visit the Community Welcome Center on Panzer Kaserne or call 431-2230/civ. 07031-15-2230.



Hugh C. McBride

[Above] U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Housing Office team member Christa Grote reviews a map of the Stuttgart area with customer Jim Libal. In addition to making on-post arrangements, the office also assists community members who live off-post.



courtesy USAG Stuttgart Housing Office

Mary Scott (far left) and members of the award-winning U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Housing Office assemble in the Welcome Center on Panzer Kaserne.

Sexual Assault: Not in Our Army



April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

For more information visit www.sexualassault.army.mil or call DSN 431-3361 / CIV 07031-15-3361

Planning an event?

Don't forget to file an AT plan

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart
Public Affairs Office

For members of the overseas military community, planning an event or conference involves one essential – and mandatory – step in addition to booking the venue, selecting the caterer and sending the invitations. According to the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Antiterrorism Office, U.S. European Command Operation Order 03-11 and U.S. Army Europe regulation 525-13, all official and U.S. sponsored events must have an antiterrorism plan.

The level of approval required for the plan depends upon the size and location of the event, as well as the expected presence of certain attendees:

- For on-post or off-post events with 50 to 199 attendees, the local commander is the approving authority.
- On-post events with 200 to 500 attendees need the garrison commander's approval.

- On-post events with 500 or more attendees must be approved by the community's general officer senior mission commander.
- Off-post events with more than 200 attendees must be approved by the GOSMC
- Also, any event attended by a general/flag officer with the rank of O-9 or 10, or any VIPs in attendance, must be reviewed by the GOSMC.

Know the steps, be prepared

Event organizers should take the following steps no later than 30 days prior to an event with 50 or more individuals in attendance.

- Review local threat assessment.
- Make a vulnerability assessment and develop AT measures to mitigate the threat.
- Make a risk assessment.
- Prepare an AT plan, operation order or fragmentary order for the event.



Hugh McBride
Before your next event, make sure you know what you need to do to ensure maximum protection for all in attendance.

*For more information call the
USAG-Stuttgart Antiterrorism Office:
421-2860/civ. 0711-729-2860.*

- Submit the plan to the garrison AT office for processing.
- Event coordinators need to ensure that they have the following information included with their request.
- Special event organizer's information such as name, rank, e-mail address, unit and contact phone numbers.
- Type of event.
- Date, time and duration of the event.
- Location of event (including street names, city and zip code).
- Number of attendees, including U.S. and host-nation guests with a breakdown of officer, enlisted and civilian personnel.
- Mode of transportation to and from the event.
- Identify safe havens along the route to include police stations, hos-

- pitals and fire departments.
- Special security for VIP guests.
 - Handicap concerns, if applicable.
 - The plan to mitigate known threats or situations that might happen, with a brief paragraph addressing planned actions.

Other critical timelines

If an event requires support by the military police, a request needs to be submitted to the USAG-Stuttgart Provost Marshal's Office no later than 60 days prior to the event.

Completed AT plan, threat and risk assessments need to be submitted to the USAG -Stuttgart AT Office four weeks prior to the event.

The USAG-Stuttgart Antiterrorism Office also encourages personnel to review the USAREUR quarterly travel message, which can be obtained from the USAGS Antiterrorism Office.

FP ACRONYMS

AT Office

Formerly known as the Force Protection Office, the **USAG Stuttgart Antiterrorism Office** plays a significant role in the area's safety and security planning.

CAC

The **common access card** (or "smart card") is an integral component of U.S. Army Europe's installation access control system (for more, see "IACS" below).

The identification card, which is embedded with a computer chip, offers a higher degree of security and accountability than is available with other types of ID cards.

FPCON

Force protection conditions are standardized identification and recommended responses to terrorist threats against U.S. personnel and facilities. The following are the four FP condition levels above "Normal."

- **Alpha** – This condition applies when there is a general threat of possible terrorist activity, the nature and extent of which are unpredictable, and circumstances do not justify full implementation of higher measures.
- **Bravo** – This condition applies when an increased and more predictable threat of terrorist activity exists.
- **Charlie** – This condition applies when an incident occurs or intelligence is received indicating some form of terrorist action against personnel and facilities is imminent.
- **Delta** – This condition applies in the immediate area where a terrorist attack has occurred or when intelligence indicates that terrorist action against a specific location or person is likely.

IACS

The **Installation Access Control System** is an automated system that employs "smart cards" and handheld digital assistants. The system was designed to move access control beyond a reliance on printed ID material.

HHQVA

U.S. military installations throughout the world participate in **Higher Headquarters Vulnerability Assessments**, which provide analyses of an organization's anti-terrorism posture. These assessments evaluate responses to threats against locations, personnel, facilities and other assets.

SNAP

The **Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program** is similar to stateside "Neighborhood Watch" efforts.

For more about the local SNAP effort call 430-5560/civ. 0711-680-5560 or e-mail earnest.epps@us.army.mil.

Emergency numbers to know in Stuttgart & Garmisch

Ambulance: 116 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stuttgart civ. 0711-680-116• Garmisch civ. 08821-750-116	Military Police: 114 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stuttgart civ. 0711-680-114• Garmisch civ. 08821-750-114* Emergencies Only * <p><i>For non-emergencies call the MP desk Stuttgart: 430-5262/civ. 0711-680-5262 Garmisch: 440-3801/civ. 08821-750-3801</i></p>	Fire Department: 117 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stuttgart civ. 0711-680-117• Garmisch civ. 08821-750-117
Chaplain's Office <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stuttgart 430-5000/civ. 0711-680-5000• Garmisch 440-2819/civ. 08821-750-2819		Family Advocacy Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stuttgart 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176• Garmisch 440-2584/civ. 08821-750-2584
Victim's Advocate <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stuttgart 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176• After hours handy 0176-262-48894	Social Work Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stuttgart 431-2627/civ. 07031-15-2627	SNAP Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stuttgart 430-5560/civ. 07031-15-5560• Garmisch 440-3618/civ. 08821-750-3618

Emergency numbers & other on-post contact information also available online at www.stuttgart.army.mil.

Anti-Terrorism Effort: It’s a Family Affair

At home or on the road, make force protection your family’s top priority

Texas A&M University Release
www.rf-web.tamu.edu

Security is a family concern. The following guidelines cannot guarantee an individual’s safety, but they will lower the risk that you or a member of your family will become a victim of either terrorists or criminals during your foreign assignment. Spouses and children should follow the same procedures. Many of these procedures are intended for use in areas where the terrorist threat level is moderate to high, but they can be useful no matter where your duties take you. The goal is for you to be less visible to terrorists and criminals and less vulnerable to their attack.

Security through Obscurity

The entire family should maintain a low profile by dressing and behaving in a manner that blends in with the local environment.

Don’t look like a “rich American.” Avoid clothing or behavior that make you stand out as an American or that is offensive to the local culture. For example wearing shorts is offensive in some countries. In some cultures, a public display of affection is highly offensive.

Don’t share personal information about yourself, your family, or your work with anyone you do not know well. Be careful of what local nationals can overhear as you talk in a restaurant, hotel, or airport.

Do not assume that the local national sitting nearby can’t understand English.

The harder it is for a terrorist or criminal to predict your schedule, the more difficult it will be for a terrorist to take action against you.

Vary the time of your departure and your route to and from work. If you have an exercise routine involving walking or jogging, change times and routes frequently to frustrate attempts to discover a predictable schedule. Write down license numbers of suspicious vehicles and note descriptions of occupants.

Be aware of small but potentially significant changes in your surroundings. Study the normal pattern of activity near your home and office.

Note and report anyone who does not appear to belong there or who acts suspiciously.

Are any local national employees in your household or office suddenly acting differently toward you, or toward all Americans? Is an area of town that is normally busy suspiciously empty? It may be a clue that the local population knows, or senses, that something bad is going to happen there.

If you or any member of your family is evacuated from a building due to a bomb threat, remember this: After evacuating, stay out of the parking lot and at least 600 feet away from the building and parking lot. If the terrorist’s goal is to kill people, not just destroy the building, a second bomb may be placed outside in a parked vehicle, dumpster, or trash can. It may be intended to kill the people who evacuated the building.

The following standard operations security procedures can make it harder for terrorists to obtain the information they need to plan an operation against you.

- Never put your name on a mailbox or exterior walls of your residence.
- Never answer your home telephone with name and rank.
- Consider the use of an unlisted phone number.
- Never give family information to strangers.
- Be discreet when discussing plans that indicate when your residence will be vacant.
- When you are away from your residence, use timers to turn lights on and off.
- Destroy all trash that could become a source of information about you.
- Treat with suspicion any inquiries about your whereabouts or activities

Family and Home Security

You and all family members residing abroad should become familiar with the customs, culture, history and geography of the area to which you are assigned. This should include learning at least a few phrases in the country’s language for emergency use.

Know how to ask for the police and for medical care. Anyone who can’t speak the local language should considering carrying small cards with emergency phrases printed on them, such as “I need a policeman, or a doctor.”

The entire family should practice these basic security precautions:

- Check in with coworkers, friends and family to let them know when and where you are and when to expect you back
- Learn to use the local phone system and memorize emergency numbers for police, fire, doctor, and the nearest U.S. diplomatic or military installation.
- Know the locations of police and fire stations, the U.S. embassy or any other safe public place where refuge or assistance may be found.
- Develop and practice emergency procedures in the home (fire, bomb, evacuation, etc.)
- Never admit strangers to the home without proper identification.
- Restrict the possession of house keys. Change locks if keys are lost or stolen and when moving into a previously occupied residence.
- Lock all entrances at night, including the garage.
- Do not draw attention to yourself in the neighborhood. Be considerate of neighbors and develop friendly relations with them.
- Children should use locally approved play areas where recreational activities are supervised by responsible adults and where police protection is readily available.

Travelers’ autos, wallets make tempting targets for thieves

U.S. Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs

In many places frequented by tourists, including areas of southern Europe, victimization of motorists has been refined to an art. Carjackers and thieves operate at gas stations, parking lots, in city traffic and along the highway.

Be suspicious of anyone who hails you or tries to get your attention when you are in or near your car.

Criminals may pose as “good Samaritans,” offering help for tires that they claim are flat or that they have made flat. Or they may flag down a motorist, ask for assistance and then steal the rescuer’s luggage or car.

Other criminals get your attention with abuse, either trying to drive you off the road, or causing an “accident” by rear-ending you or creating a “fender bender.”

In some urban areas, thieves don’t waste time on ploys – they simply smash car windows at traffic lights, grab your valuables or your car and get away.

In cities around the world, “defensive driving” has come to mean more than avoiding auto accidents; it means keeping an eye out for potentially criminal pedestrians, cyclists and scooter riders.

Both in and out of vehicles, travelers should avoid carrying large amounts of cash.

Change travelers’ checks only as currency is needed – and make sure to countersign them only in front of the person who will cash them.

Do not flash large amounts of money when paying a bill – and if you use a credit card, make sure it is returned to you after each transaction.

Deal only with authorized agents when you exchange money, buy airline tickets or purchase souvenirs. Do not change money on the black market.

If your possessions are lost or stolen, report the loss immediately to the local police. (A state-side driver’s license, department store credit cards, and other nonessential means of identification should have been kept at home to begin with.)

Keep a copy of the police report for insurance claims and as an explanation of your plight. After reporting missing items to the police, report losses or thefts to the following:

- Travelers’ checks: nearest agent of the issuing company.
- Credit cards: the issuing company.
- Passports: nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

For more information about travel safety visit www.travel.state.gov.

Travel safety starts at home: Stay alert, aware to thwart threat

Before Departure

- Do not discuss travel plans in public places; only tell those who need to know the details (for example, one’s unit or supervisor).
- Check the U.S. State Department Web site (www.travel.state.gov) for security information on countries to be visited or travelled through.
- Check the DoD’s Foreign Clearance Guide (<https://www.fcg.pentagon.mil>) for information.
- Ensure that all doors and windows – including those in the garage – are secure.
- Use automatic timers to turn lights, radios and televisions on and off.
- Ask a neighbor to keep an eye on the home, remove mail and newspapers, and draw the curtains.
- Do not hide a spare key; instead leave one with a trusted neighbor.
- Use civilian addresses for tickets and other documents.

On the Road

- Be wary of pickpockets, especially in crowds.
- Never leave keys unattended.
- Never leave luggage unattended.
- Never carry packages for other people.
- Do not display military IDs, stickers or unit logos.
- Do not leave items of military equipment or clothing visible in the car.
- Conceal military-issued car passes.
- Keep a low profile, and be discreet in revealing NATO and military affiliation.
- Do not flash large sums of money, documents, or credit cards
- Carry valuables and belongings in a secure manner.
- Check vehicles before entering them.
- Avoid secluded areas, poorly lit streets and alleys.
- Stay away from known trouble spots.

Source: IMCOM-Europe Region



Fighting the threat from within: Internet access can invite online predators

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Though online computer exploration opens a world of possibilities for children, expanding their horizons and exposing them to different cultures and ways of life, the information superhighway can also be a dangerous place.

Recognizing the risk

Online predators attempt to sexually exploit children through the use of online services and the Internet. Some of these individuals gradually seduce their targets through the use of attention, affection, kindness and even gifts.

These individuals are often willing to devote considerable amounts of time, money and energy to this process. They listen to and empathize with the problems of children. These individuals attempt to gradually lower children's inhibitions by slowly introducing sexual context and content into their conversations.

Some offenders primarily collect and trade child-pornographic images, while others seek face-to-face meetings with children via online contacts. It is important for parents to understand that children can be indirectly victimized through conversation or "chat," as well as by the transfer of sexually explicit information and material.

Computer-sex offenders may also be evaluating children they come in contact with online for future face-to-face contact and direct victimization. Parents and children should remember that a computer-sex offender can be any age or sex – the person does not have to fit the caricature of a dirty, unkempt, older man wearing a raincoat to be someone who could harm a child.

Children, especially adolescents, may be moving away from the total control of parents and seeking to establish new relationships outside their family.

Sex offenders targeting children will use and exploit these characteristics and needs. Some adolescent children may also be attracted to and lured by online offenders closer to their age who may also be dangerous.

Warning signs

The following signs may indicate that your child might be at risk of being victimized by an online predator:

- Your child spends large amounts of time online, especially at night.

Most children who fall victim to computer-sex offenders spend large amounts of time online, particularly in chat rooms. They may often go online after dinner and on the weekends. Parents should consider monitoring the amount of time their children spend online.

Children online are at the greatest risk during the evening hours. Offenders can be online around the clock, but most work during the day and spend their evenings trying to locate and lure children.

- You find pornography on your child's computer.

Pornography is often used in the sexual victimization of children. Sex offenders often supply their potential victims with pornography as a means of opening sexual discussions and for seduction.

- Your child receives phone calls from people you don't know or is making calls to numbers you don't recognize.
- Your child receives mail, gifts, or packages from someone you don't know.

As part of the seduction process, it is common for offenders to send letters, photographs, and all manner of gifts to their potential victims.

Computer-sex offenders have even sent plane tickets in order for the child to travel across the country to meet them.

Information in this article was prepared from actual investigations involving child victims, as well as investigations where law enforcement officers posed as children.

For more information visit the following Web sites:

- Federal Bureau of Investigation (www.fbi.gov)
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Teens (www.missingkids.org)



www.photos.com

A documented total of 111,530 cases of cyber crimes against children were reported in the U.S. in 2004. Parental vigilance is an essential step in ensuring children's safety online.

Help your children stay safe online

The Internet can be dangerous for children – but strategies exist to help mitigate the threats posed by online predators.

- **Communicate.** Talk to your child about sexual victimization and potential online danger.

- **Spend time with your children** online. Have them teach you about their favorite online destinations.

- Keep the computer in a **common room** in the house, not in your child's bedroom. It is much more difficult for a computer-sex offender to communicate with a child when the screen is visible to a parent

- Utilize **parental controls** provided by your service provider and blocking software. Use of chat rooms, in particular, should be heavily monitored.

- Always **maintain access** to your child's online account and randomly check his or her e-mail. Be aware that your child could be contacted through the U.S. mail. Be up front with your child about your access and reasons why.

- Find out what **computer safeguards** are utilized by your child's school, the public library, and at the homes of your child's friends.

- **Understand** that even if your child was a willing participant in any form of sexual exploitation, he or she is not at fault and is the victim. The offender always bears responsibility for his or her actions.

- **Instruct** your children to always follow the following online safety rules:

- Never arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone you met online.
- Never upload pictures of yourself onto the Internet send photos to people you do not know.
- Never give out identifying information such as your name, home address, school or telephone number.
- Never download files from an unknown source.
- Never respond to messages or bulletin board postings that are suggestive, obscene, belligerent, or harassing.
- Remember: Online information may not be true.

Source: *A Parent's Guide to Internet Safety*
(available online at www.fbi.gov).

AT training now required for family members

By Hugh C. McBride

To paraphrase that old commercial about registering for the Selective Service, educating oneself about personal security is not only quick and easy – it's also mandatory.

According to U.S. European Command Operations Order 03-11, family members (ages 14 and above) are now required to complete the Department of Defense's online Antiterrorism Level I training program.

The training, which is available at <https://atlevel1.dtic.mil/>

**AT Level I Training is available online
at <https://atlevel1.dtic.mil/at/>**

at/, is designed to ensure that all individuals have a heightened awareness of terrorism and are able to implement personal protective measures into their daily lives.

Training topics include the safe use of public transportation, personal safety when traveling and methods of identifying and reporting security threats.

April is Alcohol Awareness Month

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Army Substance Abuse Program

Sponsored by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Alcohol Awareness Month has been observed every April since 1989. For the past 10 years, a primary focus of the month has been underage drinking and the devastating effects it can have on our children.

Stuttgart's Army Substance Abuse Program is sponsoring an Alcohol Awareness Quiz. To the right are 10 questions. Write down your answers, and drop the sheet (along with your name and phone number) in the "ASAP Alcohol Quiz Drawing" box in one of the following three locations:

- Galaxy and Bowling and Entertainment Center
- Patch Barracks Commissary
- Kelley Barracks Commissary.

On April 25, we will collect all entries and draw ten. Prizes will include gift certificates to AAFES as well as gift bags stuffed with "goodies."

For more information call the 431-2530/civ. 07031015-2530.

What's Your Alcohol IQ?

1. **T/F:** Alcohol is a mood-altering stimulant.
2. **T/F:** If someone is drunk, you should encourage that person to vomit.
3. **T/F:** To become more sober, drink coffee or take a shower to become more alert.
4. **T/F:** Blackouts mean a person passes out.
5. **T/F:** Americans are generally big drinkers when compared to the rest of the world.
6. **T/F:** Alcohol cures colds.
7. **T/F:** Bottles of tequila each contain a worm.
8. What does BAC stand for?
9. What is one standard drink equivalent to? (There are three answers. You must get two.)
10. The typical American teen will see how many beer commercials before he or she turns 18?
a) 25,000 b) 100,000 c) 250,000

ASK AN EXPERT

How can I get washboard abs?

Q: Will performing abdominal exercises give you a flat stomach?

This edition's expert:
Terri Tokar
Stuttgart Wellness Center

Answer: The fact is, the only way to get a flat stomach is to strip away the fat around the midsection.

This is accomplished by doing cardio/aerobic exercise (to burn calories), strength training (to increase metabolism) and following a proper diet.

Abdominal exercises will help to build muscle in your midsection, but you will never see the muscle definition unless the fat in this area is stripped away.

For more information e-mail stuttgart.wellness@army.mil.

Do you have a question about a policy, procedure or other topic related to life on a U.S. military installation in Stuttgart or Garmisch?

E-mail your query to **stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil**, and we will 'Ask An Expert' for you!

HEALTH CARE CORNER

U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart

Hours of Operation

Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri.: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursdays: 1 to 4 p.m.

Military Sick Call

Mon. to Fri.: 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.
Thursdays, 1 to 2 p.m.

Pharmacy

M, T, W, F: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursdays: 1 to 4 p.m.

Immunizations

Walk-in basis
Closed noon to 1 p.m.

Well Baby Care

Every Tuesday

Laboratory

M, T, W, F: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursdays: 1 to 4 p.m.

Physical Exams

Active-duty only (by appt.)
430-6817/civ. 0711-680-6817

Well Woman Care

Every Wednesday

Appointments

430-8610/civ. 0711-680-8610 or 430-8611/civ. 0711-680-8611
Tricare beneficiaries can also make appointments online.
Visit www.tricareonline.com.

Stuttgart Dental Clinic

Hours of Operation

Mon. to Fri.: 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. & 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Active-Duty Sick Call

Mon. to Fri.: 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

All Others Sick Call

Mon. to Fri.: 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Appointments

430-8626/civ. 0711-680-8626

Garmisch Dental Clinic

Hours of Operation

Mon., Wed & Fri: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Tue: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. / Thurs: 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Military Sick Call

Mon. to Fri.: 7:30 to 8 a.m.

Appointments

440-3414/civ. 08821-750-3414

Note

Dental services are extremely limited for patients other than active-duty service members and their families.

In case of an after-hours emergency call the MP desk to access the on-call patient liaison:
Stuttgart 430-5262/civ. 0711-680-5262 / Garmisch 440-3827/civ. 08821-750-3827

Veterinary Treatment Facility

Hours of Operation

Mon. to Fri.: 8 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Appointments

431-2681/civ. 07031-15-2681

Location

Building 2996, Panzer Kaserne

Note

The facility is unable to see emergency cases. Thus, community members must become familiar with local German veterinarians. Visit the clinic for a list of German veterinarians in the Stuttgart area.

Stuttgart Wellness Center

Hours of Operation

Mon. to Fri.: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Appointments

Call the center at 430-4073/civ. 0711-680-4073

Location

Washington Center, Patch Barracks

Patch High drama students entertain with personal 'spin' on 'Up the Down Staircase'

Story & photos by Brandon Beach

Freshman April Cole just wanted to watch her friends rehearse the school's new play, *Up the Down Staircase*. She didn't imagine that a January visit to the Patch High Forum would actually land her a job in the theater. For one thing she wasn't even enrolled in drama class.

But that didn't stop Walter Fritz, the school's drama teacher, from asking her to give it a try. She walked out that day as the play's new sound technician. She hadn't even touched a soundboard before.

"We have so many talented kids at this school," said Fritz, "who were able to step in and fill roles."

Following two months of rehearsals, *Up the Down Staircase* premiered to a near-capacity crowd March 15, and Cole was right on queue with the opening song, "Teenage Wasteland" by The Who.

As the famous lyrics of high school angst belted out from the forum's loudspeakers, a large-screen video montage introduced each of the play's 22 characters. The video was one of several alterations PHS students made to a script that was written back in 1965.

"There's a lot of places where we put our own little spin. We wanted to try to make it as modern-day funny as possible," said sophomore Tyler Boswell, who along with Michelle Whitbeck, a senior, were the production's two student directors.

The play was written by Bel Kaufman. It centers on Sylvia Barrett, an idealistic first-year English teacher at Calvin Coolidge High School, a fictionalized inner-city school in New York. She was played by Amy Crawford, a junior at PHS.

Boswell said that once the cast decided that Alexander M. Patch High School would replace Calvin Coolidge the play really took off. "Everyone was throwing out ideas," he said.

We have so many talented kids at this school who were able to step in and fill roles.

Walter Fritz
PHS drama teacher

Up the Down Staircase wrapped up after four shows with a matinee performance on March 18.

"We had so many great actors," said Whitbeck. "Fritz gave us the chance to put so much of ourselves into the script, which made it really fun."

In addition to staging a full-length production, Patch thespians have kept a busy calendar this winter semester.

On March 9, several students took part in the garrison-sponsored Women's History Month recognition luncheon, held at the Swabian Special Events Center, enacting the 14 honorary women that were selected this year by the National Women's History Project.

Last week, the actors took their talents to Patch Elementary School, where they staged original puppet shows to the delight of several classes.

It's all part of a diverse lineup of projects that Fritz said gives his students a chance to explore "as much of their creativity as possible."

And that even goes for students not on the class roster.

For more information about the Patch drama program email walter.fritz@eu.dea.edu.



[Top] Michelle Whitbeck [right] and Amy Crawford [left] perform a scene from "Up the Down Staircase" in a March 18 matinee performance in the PHS Forum

[Above] Zach Page, as Lou Martin, a student in Sylvia Barrett's English class, prepares to launch a wad of paper March 18.

[Side] Senior Evan Jones plays Mr. McNabe, a ruler-wielding disciplinarian, in a March 18 performance.



PHS students shine in annual 'follies' talent show at the

Story & photos by Brandon Beach

From original song to interpretive dance, the Patch High School Follies Talent Show thrilled a near-capacity crowd March 23 in the PHS Forum.

"I wish we could give them all prizes," said Jennifer Buxkemper, one of five judges on this year's panel. "It takes so much courage to perform in front of your peers."

Sophomore Jacob Cody took top honors and a \$300 cash award for his sultry performance of "Fever," recorded by Peggy Lee in 1968. "I think it's great to bring the classics back," said Cody.

For the third year in a row, senior Cody Dickey took runner up honors and \$200. Playing piano and illumi-

It takes so much courage to perform in front of your peers.

Jennifer Buxkemper
Follies judge

nated by a single lamp at the back of the stage, Dickey sang, "God Bless the Child," a song written by jazz great Billy Holiday.

Rounding out the talent, Stormie McClelland and Aaron Leatherman took home third place and \$100 for their original song, "Our Escape."

Honorable mentions went to Melissa Arnold, who belted out the 2006 Evanescence hit, "Call Me When You're Sober," Jennifer Farlet, for "Popular" from the hit-musical Wicked, and dance duo Jared Taylor and Seth Meredith.

Those who saw their performance may never be able to hear Vanessa Carlton's "Thousand Miles" in quite the same way.

"The enthusiasm was overwhelming," said Taylor, of the crowd.

Zach Page and Michelle Whitbeck hosted the one-and-a-half hour show.

The event was hosted by the PHS Parent Teacher Student Association.

[Side] PHS student Charlie Dowling performs "Street Lights," an original song he composed for the March 23 Follies Show, held at the Forum.



Young wrestlers hit the mats on Patch

Stuttgart Sabercats host 7-team tourney

Story & photos by Brandon Beach

More than 130 grapplers from ten different YS squads hit the mats for a daylong tournament March 24 in the Patch Fitness Center gymnasium.

The meet was hosted by the Stuttgart Sabercats and involved teams from as far out as Brussels, Belgium. Of the squads, Stuttgart had the largest roster with 48 wrestlers.

On that Saturday, they competed in 117 matches, winning 69 of them, 35 by pin. They also won 15 out of the 36 weight brackets.

This is the fifth tournament of a season, that began Feb. 24 in Landstuhl. The YS Euro Champs will be held April 7 in Heidelberg.

Teams consisted of both girls and boys ages five to 14. Wrestlers were matched appropriately against opponents of similar size, age and experience level in a round-robin format.

Tim Warner described the three-month season with one word: Intense.

"When the whistle blows, they know it's just them out there," said Warner, an assistant coach for the Sabercats. "It's their chance to try out what we taught them."

Since January, the Sabercats have practiced twice a week for two hours in the Boeblingen Elementary School gym. Col. Norm Matzke, head coach of the Sabercats, said that with so many kids under one roof "you have to be very creative at practice."

The Sabercats get a major boost from its 10 volunteer coaches on staff, a fact that Bob Gridley, a USAG Stuttgart YS recreation assistant, said makes the program work.

"They give so much to the kids and the sport," he said. "It's really incredible what they do for these kids day in and day out."

It was evidenced on the mat Saturday.

Austin Heebler proved a fast learner. A first-year Sabercat wrestler, he has an impressive 11-1 season record, eight of his matches won by pin. Against opponents, he sticks to his coach's game plan.

"If they're big, I wait for them to shoot and then spin on them," he said. "But if they're my size, I shoot them first."

McKenna Fields, wrestling in the 60 lbs. weight category, posted two straight wins in her bracket, both of them by pin. She has dropped just one match all season.

The 9-year old, who attends Boeblingen Elementary School, does "push-ups, sit-ups and fights with her brothers" to stay a step ahead of her opponents.

Beside every wrestler is a parent. It took



Six-year old Riley McKevitt, a Stuttgart Sabercat wrestler, pins his first-round opponent March 24 in the Patch Fitness Center gym.

[Volunteers] give so much to the kids and the sport.

Bob Gridley
YS Rec Assistant

three rounds for Sabercat Jahryn Bailey to pin his first-round opponent with a half nelson. After the match, he said two things helped him win: "My energy and my mom."

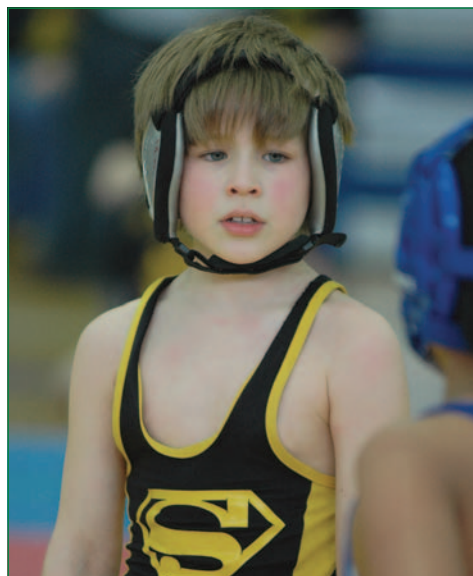
For the Sabercats, this is the only tournament on home turf this season. The YS Euro Champs will be held April 7 in Heidelberg.

For more information about wrestling and other youth sports contact the YS Sports Office at 431-2616/civ. 07031-15-2616.



[Top] Sabercat coach Tim Warner gives a wrestler some advice from the sidelines.

[Side] Robbie Call, a Sabercat wrestler, prepares to face his first opponent.



Stuttgart Piranhas make big splash at European finals

Story by Sydney Croxton

The Stuttgart Piranhas wrapped up its swim season at the European Forces Swim League Championship Feb. 17 in Munich. The two-day meet was held at the same Olympic pool where Mark Spitz won a record seven gold medals in the 1972 Olympics.

Thirty-nine Piranhas swimmers qualified for 138 events. Seventeen other European Forces swim teams competed in the meet.

Since the season began, the Piranhas have prepared for "Champs" by attending at least four practices per week for the varsity and junior varsity swimmers. The junior swimmers practice at least three times. The coaching staff this year included head coach Lynne Hinkey and assistant coaches Melanie Reichner, Karla Perry and Becky Pukansky.

"The coaches expected a lot more from the swimmers, and it really showed in their performances this year," said Hinkey.

The Piranhas also tripled the number of swimmers that attended Champs last year, coming away with 49 medals, 12 of which were top three finishes.

Although some Piranhas have been to Champs before and knew what to expect like seven-year Piranhas veteran Silas Porterfield, other Piranhas like Brian McGuinness and Fallon Daniels were attending the

competition for the first time.

One swimmer who had a particularly outstanding meet was 9-year old Dagmar Gudmundsson, who placed in the top three in every one of her five individual events, winning two gold medals, two silver medals, and a bronze medal.

"The Piranhas had a great season, with more time improvements, more Champs qualifiers, and more swimmers ranked higher in the League than ever before," said Hinkey. "We had a lot of fun."

The following Piranhas were medal winners: Kristin Bender, Matt Bender, Ellyse Bochna, Robby Busbin, Melissa Call, Sydney Croxton, Taylor Daniels, Brad Lenkeit, Katherine Lowe, Mandy Lucas, Kevin Perry, Morgan Perry, Silas Porterfield, Bailey Rainey and Nazareth Youngs. Dagmar Gudmundsson and Missy Lucas were EFSL champions.

As the swim season comes to a close, many swimmers have started to look forward to next year. The coaches plan to increase the amount of time the swimmers spend in the water next year as well as increase the difficulty of the practices.

With this season complete and another season just six months away, the Piranhas will be sure to have some more great swims ahead of them.

To view pictures of the Piranhas 2006-07 season go to www.stuttgart.army.mil.

‘Slant’ rocks the house on Patch Barracks

L.A.-based band shows appreciation for service members during Armed Forces Entertainment tour of Europe

Story & photos by Hugh C. McBride

Stranded in the desert while trying to get to a gig in Nevada, Ilya Karpman sat behind his band’s broken-down van and felt the tears welling up in his eyes.

It was the best day of his life.

A few moments earlier, as he and his Slant bandmates worked to repair the van and salvage the show, Karpman’s cell phone rang.

On the other end was Patrick Arn, head of the band’s label, Gotham Records, with a question: Would Slant like to travel to Europe to play for U.S. service members stationed there?

“Literally, I had tears coming down,” recalled Karpman, a former Marine. “This is without a doubt the greatest opportunity of my life.”

By the way: Slant fixed the van and made the gig, where they debuted a song Karpman had just finished: “Heroes,” a tribute to the troops.

‘It’s not about us’

Slant brought its internationally infused alternative rock and roll show to Patch Barracks March 18, one of six stops on an Armed Forces Entertainment tour of Germany, Belgium and the United Kingdom.

And though Karpman is the only member of the band who previously served in uniform, an appreciation for the troops permeates the group.

“Before Ilya joined the band, he’d bring carloads of Marines to our shows [in the Los Angeles area],” said guitarist Munir Harque. (Karpman’s brother, Andrew, was already the band’s drummer.) “It was a great feeling, knowing that these guys drove all the way up just to see us,” Harque said.

Harque said the military crowds in Europe have been extremely enthusiastic, recalling with a smile the previous night’s show in Hohenfels, when audience members joined the band on stage.

“If someone stepped on a cord, it didn’t matter — everybody was on the same page, and we were all having a great time,” Harque said, adding that trying to perform while sharing the stage with a group of dancing service members was symbolic of what this Slant tour is all about. “Whenever the attention is turned on us, we want to turn in right back on [the audience],” he said.

Standing amid a crowd of well-wishers after the March 18 show in Sliders Lounge, lead singer Fahim Zaman concurred, describing the European tour as “probably the most fun experience that I’ve had in my career. We’re meeting genuine people that we appreciate. I’m so happy that we got to do this.”

‘We had a blast’

Slant and Arn (who accompanied the band on the tour) emphasized that they came to Europe with their hearts and minds focused on the service members for whom they would be playing.

But as the members of any well-intentioned yet perpetually underbooked garage band can attest, good feelings will only get you so far in the music business. In the end, it all comes down to the sound.

Though Slant played to a relatively small crowd during their Sunday night show in Stuttgart, those who were there came away impressed with what they saw and heard.

“We had a blast,” said Sgt. Cathy Perez, who attended the show with a contingent of fellow Soldiers from the 52nd Aviation Regiment’s Echo



[Top Left] Slant bassist Ilya Karpman, a former Marine, takes the music to the crowd during the final song of the band’s March 18 set in Sliders Lounge on Patch Barracks.

[Bottom Left] Guitarist Munir Harque is a blur as he blazes his way through a solo March 18 on Patch Barracks.

[Right] Lead singer Fahim Zaman steps into the spotlight as Slant kicks off its March 18 show in Sliders Lounge.

Company, which is stationed on the Stuttgart Army Airfield.

Perez and company got what was likely the evening’s most up-close-and-personal look at Slant, as Karpman leapt from the stage during the band’s finale, laying down the bass line while dancing amid the Echo Co. Soldiers.

Another audience member, Emily Worrell, said she was impressed with both the music and the musicians. “I thought they were great, and they’re really good guys,” she said.

Perhaps the most succinct rave came courtesy of Brian Palmer. “I thought they were [enthusiastic adjective deleted] awesome,” he said.

Forward from here

With their European tour now a memory, Slant is set to head into the studio to record the follow-up to their 2005 debut album “A Thin Line.” (The group had been slated for the studio in March, but postponed the recording session after receiving the offer to play overseas.)

Here in Stuttgart, the garrison’s Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation plans to continue its series of AFE events with a concert by Gary Sinise’s “Lt. Dan Band” in May.



Coming to Stuttgart May 11

The Lt. Dan Band
featuring Gary Sinise

Another great show brought to you by the
USAG Stuttgart Directorate of Morale, Welfare & Recreation
and Armed Forces Entertainment

Time, location & other details to be announced soon!



Nothing rings out fest season more than a swing through the air. Kids enjoy some vertical fun at last year's Frühlingsfest.

Stuttgart's spring festival returns for 69th go-round

Story & photos by
Brandon Beach

Spring might not yet be in the air, but Stuttgart's *Cannstatter Frühlingsfest* is right around the corner. The 69th edition of the popular spring festival officially opens April 21 when one of Stuttgart's lord mayors taps the traditional beer barrel. The celebration will continue through May 13.

Held in the *Cannstatter Wasen*, the fest is one of the largest spring festivals in Europe, with some 1.5 million expected visitors, according to the Stuttgart tourism Web site (www.stuttgart-tourist.de). The extensive Wasen grounds are located in the Bad Cannstatt district, near the Neckar River.

With rollicking fest tents, wild rides, cultural displays and games galore, Frühlingsfest is a popular destination for both family-friendly afternoons and more adult-oriented outings.

Described as a smaller version of the famous autumn *Volksfest*, Frühlingsfest features four massive beer tents and plenty of liter-sized beer mugs and *halbes Göckele* (half-roasted chickens) to fill any appetite.

Traditional "*umpapa*" brass bands will keep tent visitors standing on tables hollering "*Prosit*."

If German sausage and liter-sized beer is not your diet, the fest also includes a French village with a Parisien atmosphere and plenty of food stands serving exotic wines, chocolate-filled crepes and original Alsace flammkuchen (think of a thin pizza slathered in cream and cheese).

Frühlingsfest is a popular destination for both family-friendly afternoons and more adult-oriented outings.

Some of the festival's more inverted attractions include the looped Eurostar rollercoaster; the Wild Water ride, with its Western backdrop; and the Power Tower 2, with a 217 foot vertical drop, which makes it just 16 feet shy of the top of the *Stiftskirche* (the city's landmark church located on *Schillerplatz*).

Romantically-minded couples will enjoy a bird's eye view from the Ferris wheel.

For those who prefer to keep their feet on the ground, the *Krämermarkt* (variety market), located at the fest's main entrance, beckons visitors to browse through its small shops to locate great deals on ceramics, kitchenware, clothes and more.

Special events

Special events and attractions include the following:

- Wednesdays are Family Days. Enjoy reduced carnival ride tickets.
- April 25: Music and Fireworks Night starting at 9:45 p.m.
- April 30: Hot-air balloon extravaganza.

For more about the *Cannstatter Frühlingsfest* visit www.stuttgarter-fruehlingsfest.de. The festival is open daily 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Just the Facts Fest transportation

The simplest way of getting to and from the *Cannstatter Frühlingsfest* is via public transportation.

Train

- S-Bahn trains **S1**, **S2** and **S3** all stop at the *Haltestelle Bad Cannstatt*, which is a short walk from the fest grounds.
- Stadtbahn trains **U1** and **U2** stop at Mercedesstrasse, which is also close to the fest area.
- For virtual door-to-door service, the city runs a special **U11** train that stops and departs from the front gate of the fest. To get on the U11, take a train to the Stuttgart Hauptbahnhof and follow the signs.
- For a complete list of train departure and arrival times visit www.reiseauskunft.bahn.de.

Bus

- Stuttgart **Bus 56** will deliver you to the Daimler-Stadion/Schleyer Halle stop.
- For details about Stuttgart's Night Bus visit www.nacht-aktiv.net.

Taxi

- Call 0711-19-410.

Subtlety, smarts essential to staying safe at fests

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart
Public Affairs Office Release

Force protection concerns shouldn't preclude Americans abroad from enjoying the cultural offerings of their host nation – but safety should remain at the forefront of all off-post plans.

In Germany, fests and other such celebrations are not only prevalent, but are also excellent ways to experience the local culture at its most welcoming.

And adhering to certain safety precautions – both before and while attending the event – will help ensure that the memories you make are only positive ones.

Force protection tips

Regardless of one's destination, the following are excellent tips for staying safe in public situations:

- **Maintain a low profile.** Avoid attracting undue attention to yourself – both by what you say and how you say it. Don't let your conduct or mannerisms brand you as an outsider – and thus a potential target.
- **Don't travel in excessively large groups.** There is definitely safety in numbers, but smaller groups are much less likely to be noticed.
- **Dress to blend in.** Certain types of clothing – yes, we mean you in the tennis shoes and the baseball cap – identify you as an American. Try to wear something more typical of what Europeans would wear.
- **Be aware of your surroundings.** Keep an eye out for suspicious individuals – and if you think you are being followed or are in danger, go to a secure area (the German *Polizei* always have a station at fests, and U.S. military police often maintain a presence there as well).
- **Don't confront individuals** who are following you or who you believe may be endangering you. Obtain the best possible description you can (noting height, weight, clothing and distinguishing characteristics) and report it to the police.
- **If you must drive, park your vehicle in a secured lot or a well-lit area.** Don't allow yourself to be stranded – or victimized – because you didn't want to pay for a parking place.
- **Take public transportation when possible.** In addition to being a safer and more convenient mode of travel, public transportation won't put your vehicle at risk.
- **Talk to your children about safety.** Find a "meeting point" and make sure your children know where to go and what to do in case you get separated in the crowd.
- **Don't discuss your military affiliation with strangers.** Remember: security through obscurity.
- **Limit your alcohol intake.** Try not to overindulge, and plan transportation home in advance.



A trumpet player at last year's Frühlingsfest keeps a local beer tent in a festive and "*Prosit*" mood.

CYS SpringFest

Easter Egg Hunt

7 April

HUNT STARTS AT 10 A.M.

Hop over to Husky Field
Bring your Easter Basket
See the Easter Bunny

FEST KICKS-OFF AT 12 P.M.

The fun just begins with food,
games, activities, and much more!



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